

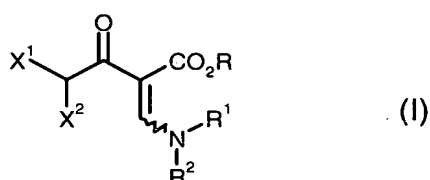
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please change the heading at page 18, line 1, from "Claims" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

-- Claim 8 (new): A process for preparing 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic esters of formula (I)

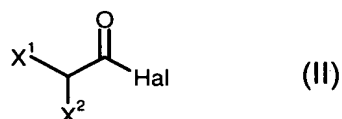


in which

R, R<sup>1</sup>, and R<sup>2</sup> are each independently C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, and

X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine,

comprising reacting an acid halide of formula (II)

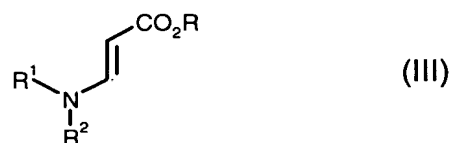


in which

Hal is fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, and

X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine,

with a dialkylaminoacrylic ester of formula (III)

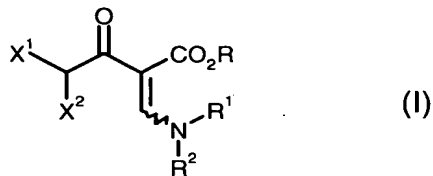


in which R, R<sup>1</sup>, and R<sup>2</sup> are each as defined for formula (I),

in a water-immiscible organic solvent in the presence of a base.

Claim 9 (new): A process according to Claim 8 wherein the base is pyridine, picoline, 2-methyl-5-ethylpyridine, 2,4,6-collidine, quinoline, or quinaldine.

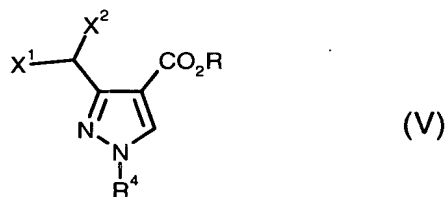
Claim 10 (new): A 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic ester of formula (I)



in which

R, R¹, and R² are each independently C₁-C₄-alkyl, and  
X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine.

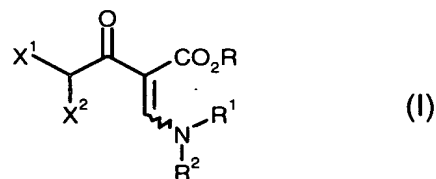
Claim 11 (new): A process for preparing 3-dihalomethylpyrazole-4-carboxylic esters of formula (V)



in which

R is C₁-C₄-alkyl,  
X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine,  
R⁴ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, is C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl having in each case 1 to 5 halogen atoms, or is phenyl,

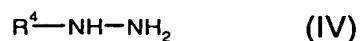
comprising reacting a 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic ester of formula (I)



in which

R, R¹ and R² are each independently C₁-C₄-alkyl, and  
X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine,

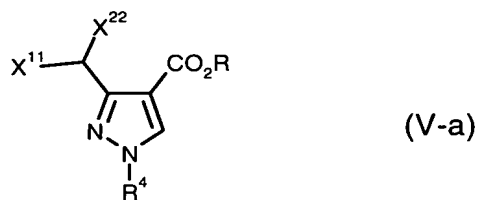
with a hydrazine derivative of formula (IV)



in which  $R^4$  is as defined for formula (V),  
at temperatures of  $-50^\circ\text{C}$  to  $0^\circ\text{C}$  in the presence of an aprotic solvent.

Claim 12 (new): A process for preparing 3-dihalomethylpyrazole-4-carboxylic esters of formula (V) according to Claim 11 wherein the 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic ester of formula (I) is prepared by the process according to Claim 8.

Claim 13 (new): A 3-dichloromethylpyrazole-4-carboxylic ester of formula (V-a)



in which

$R$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,

$X^{11}$  and  $X^{22}$  are each chlorine,

$R^4$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, hydroxy- $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl,  $C_3$ - $C_6$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylthio- $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy- $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, is  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -haloalkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -haloalkylthio- $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -haloalkoxy- $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl having in each case 1 to 5 halogen atoms, or is phenyl. --